

# SLCMA Catchment News 2025



## July

**Office:** 101 Sarina Beach Rd  
Sarina, QLD, 4737

**Phone:** (07) 4956 1388

**Website:**

[www.sarinalandcare.org.au](http://www.sarinalandcare.org.au)

**Email:**

[admin@sarinalandcare.org.au](mailto:admin@sarinalandcare.org.au)

### Office hours:

Mon/Wed: 9am-4pm

Tue/Thu: 9am-3pm

Fri: 9am-3.30pm

Please phone ahead to  
confirm availability,  
just in case we are out  
on a project or meeting.

### Staff

#### Coordinator

Saskia von Fahland

#### Administration Officer

Helen Dangerfield

#### Project Officer

Rodney Fraser

#### Nursery Officer/ Field Supervisor

Susie Tomlinson

#### Field Team Leader

Dominique Jooste

#### Field Team

Adrian Brooks

Josh Ernst

### Call us for information:

◇ Weed management

◇ Plant identification

◇ Land management

◇ Land for Wildlife

### Volunteer opportunities:

SLCMA Community  
Volunteer Program,  
Wednesday, 9-12 noon.  
Thursday, 2-5pm.

### SLCMA Executive 24/25

**Chair:** Lachlan McBride

**Vice-chair:** Malcolm Warfield

**Treasurer:** Susan Andrews

**Secretary:** Karen May

**Executive member:**

Kath De Vita

## SLCMA News!

July marked a special milestone for the Sarina Community with the official opening of the *Traditional Medicinal Gardens* at the Sarina Hospital — beautifully named **Yinha Gurubila Ganya**, meaning "**Here Medicine Place**".

This inspiring space is more than just a garden — it's a living connection to Country, culture, and healing. Congratulations to staff and volunteers at the Sarina Hospital for leading the project. We are proud to be a part of the project which has brought together people from all walks of life to share knowledge, honour traditions, and create a lasting place for reflection and wellbeing.

Together, we've created a meaningful and healing space for current and future generations — a true testament to the power of collaboration, culture and Country.



Unice Phillip Kemp &  
Karen Maude  
welcoming everyone



Yuwi, Sarina Hospital, SLCMA staff and  
volunteers

SLCMA staff and Bronwyn from  
YUWI, with Morinda tree.

Timonius Timon



Photos: YUWI

We are looking forward to our next **Community Clean Up event at Cape Palmerston National Park** on the 15th and 16th August. The clean up event will focus on rubbish and marine debris hotspots within the National Park and will be a great opportunity for the community and stakeholders to work together.

Thank you to those organisations and community members who have registered for the event—it is gearing up to be a great two days of action! A special mention also to Isaac Regional Council for their support towards the disposal of waste collected, during the events.

This project is supported through the Queensland Government's Community Sustainability Action Grant Program being delivered by SLCMA in collaboration with Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, Yuwi Aboriginal Corporation Inc. and Tangaroa Blue.



Photos: S.von Fahland



Photo: R Fraser



**Farewell** Chris Vrsaljko — All the best to Chris who finished up with us in June. Chris worked with us as a Field Officer for the last few months, on a range of projects around the Sarina catchment. Thanks Chris for being part of the SLCMA team, good luck with your future endeavours!

## SLCMA 'Plant of the Month'

This month's 'Plant of the Month' is: *Nauclea orientalis* (Leichhardt tree) **Family:** Rubiaceae

**What is in a name?** *Nauclea* comes from Greek *naus* ("ship") and *kleio* ("close"), *Orientalis* is Latin for 'of the east'

**Form:** Large tree with unique layered horizontal branching.

**Leaves:** Broadly ovate smooth (glabrous), opposite leaves. The upper surface is glossy green, the underside has raised prominent yellow venation.

**Flower:** Small fragrant tubular flowers, with yellowish-to-orange with white stamens; grouped into a spherical cluster originating from a central point.

**Fruit:** Fleshy globular multiple fruit (*syncarp*) joined by their calyces (*each flower becoming a fruitlet containing one seed*), size of a golf ball; rugose (*wrinkled*), brown, and strongly aromatic.

**Distribution:** Usually grow near bodies of water, as they prefer alluvial soils. They can occur from shrublands in areas often subjected to flooding, and rainforests. A quick growing pioneer species, settling areas leading to ecological succession.

**Notes:** Fruit edible, has a bitter flavour; Young leaves and tender shoot tips - steamed and eaten with rice. Leaves and bark used medicinally against abdominal pain, animal bites and wounds. Leaves applied externally to boils and tumours. Bark decoction used for treatment of diarrhoea and toothaches.

The "Plant of the Month" is currently available from the SLCMA Community Nursery. Landcare members are eligible to receive 1 free "Plant of the Month", throughout that month. This and other native plant species are also available for purchase at \$3.30 each. Visit our [website](https://www.slcma.org.au/nauclea-orientalis) for latest plant order form. All plants are grown from locally sourced seed in the SLCMA Community Nursery by SLCMA staff and the SLCMA Volunteer team.

Information sourced from: <https://somemagneticislandplants.com.au/leichhardt-tree>, <https://tropical.theferns.info/viewtropical.php?id=Nauclea+orientalis>, Photo sourced from: <https://www.territorynativeplants.com.au/nauclea-orientalis-leichhardt-tree>



Photos: M Meng

Juvenile tree showing form



Photo: Breeden, S. CANBR

Underside of leaf and fruit

## SLCMA Community Nursery Volunteer Program

Our incredible volunteers have achieved a lot this month! A mountain of pots has been washed and prepared for re-use, most of the tubestock is now weed-free, and plenty of seedlings have been potted up and are growing well. Our Thursday volunteer group took a stroll through the community gardens for some seed collection. They gathered some *Cordyline murchisoniae* - Murchison's palm lily, *Juncus usitatus* - Common rush, *Dodonaea viscosa* - Sticky hopbush and *Grewia latifolia* - Dogs balls. These seeds were cleaned and sown the following week—ready to kick off a new round of planting. We're also excited to welcome some new faces to the team, as well as a few familiar ones returning. Thanks to everyone who's lent a hand—your energy and dedication keep everything thriving!



Volunteers seed collecting at Hay Point

**If you would like to volunteer in your local community and meet new people while learning about local native plants and their propagation, come along to the SLCMA Community Volunteer days, every Wednesday, 9am to 12noon and, Thursday, 2pm to 5pm.**



Photos: S Tomlinson

For more details contact SLCMA on 4956 1388. The SLCMA Community Volunteer Program is proudly supported by Mackay Regional Council, Natural Environment Levy.

Volunteers enjoying socialising during morning tea

## Sarina Community Native Gardens

The Sarina Community Native Gardens is a hidden gem ready to be explored! Discover our region's unique native flora on a self-guided stroll. Want more insight? Book a group guided walk with our friendly Landcare staff. Whether you're a plant lover or a curious wanderer, there's something for everyone. Contact us at 4956 1388 or [admin@sarinalandcare.org.au](mailto:admin@sarinalandcare.org.au) to plan your visit today!



Photo: S Tomlinson



# St Lawrence Wetlands Weekend - enjoying community and country!



Photo: S von Fahland

*Enjoying the sunset mangrove walk*

What an unforgettable weekend at the St Lawrence Wetlands! The SLCMA team had an incredible time soaking up the atmosphere, engaging with locals, and celebrating the stunning wetlands and country of the Koinimberburra.

Our SLCMA stall was buzzing with activity as we shared stories, answered questions, and showcased the vital work we do across the Sarina catchment. It was heartening to see so many locals from Rockhampton and Mackay (& everywhere in between) take a keen interest in the environment and how they can play a role in protecting it.

We thoroughly enjoyed facilitating activities for the Kids "Wetlands Pass" - seeing the next generation of landcarers engaged and excited with our hands-on educational activities, from potting plants to nature-based games that got them thinking about ecosystems and conservation, in fun and memorable ways.

Beyond the stall, the event was a sensory delight — from the mouth-watering local food to the beautiful live music that floated across the wetlands. It was more than just a community event; it was a heartfelt celebration of place, people and purpose. The passion from guests such as Costa Georgiadis, Matt Golinski and Nick Flack; stall holders and other organisations was awesome.

Events like these remind us just how powerful community can be when it comes together for nature. Thank you to everyone who stopped by, said hello, or shared a story with us — we can't wait to return next year! *A big thank you to Isaac Regional Council, Koinjmal Peoples and the St Lawrence community for their tremendous effort in creating a wonderful event.*



Photo: L Brooks

*SLCMA team L-R: Saskia von Fahland, Dom Jooste, Susie Tomlinson, Josh Ernst, Adrian Brooks, Rodney Fraser*



Photo: S von Fahland

*SLCMA team L-R: Rodney Fraser, Lachlan McBride, Adrian Brooks, Josh Ernst*



*Josh with Pest Fishing Game*



*Dom & Jaylan potting-on seedlings*



*Susie, Costa & Saskia catching up*

## SLCMA Community Nursery Expansion Update

We're thrilled to share that we've secured funding from the Gambling Community Benefit Fund and the Mackay Regional Council Infrastructure and Asset Grant to begin stage 2 of our nursery expansion!

This next stage will see the extension of our current propagation area, creating a more spacious and efficient workspace for our staff and volunteers. The new area will also be ideal for hosting community workshops and training sessions, strengthening our connection with the local community. In addition, we'll be installing a dedicated all-weather space for storing and preparing potting media—ensuring smoother operations in all seasons. A huge thank you to our funding partners and everyone supporting our growing nursery!



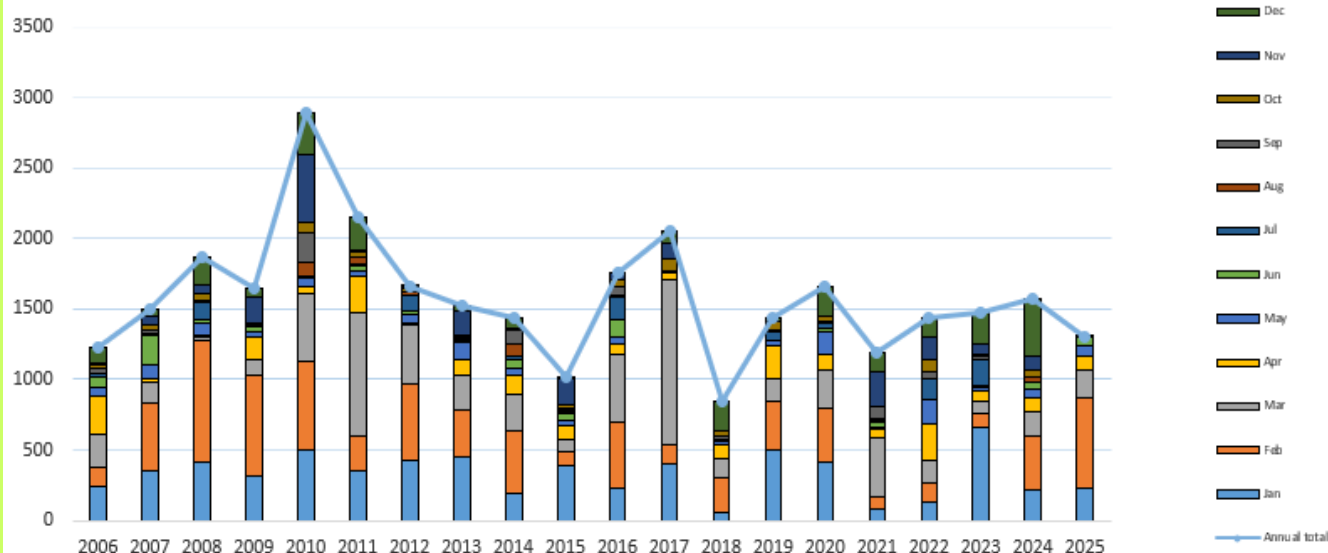
**Address:** 101 Sarina Beach Rd, Sarina QLD 4737  
**Phone:** (07) 4956 1388  
**Website:** [www.sarinalandcare.org.au](http://www.sarinalandcare.org.au)  
**Email:** [admin@sarinalandcare.org.au](mailto:admin@sarinalandcare.org.au)

## What SLCMA Membership does for you!

A membership with SLCMA has many rewards:

- ◇ Easy access to Natural Resource Management information and extension
- ◇ Monthly newsletter, meeting minutes, progress and project reports
- ◇ A vote on issues in your catchment
- ◇ A say in the types of projects applied for
- ◇ Up to 10 free local native seedlings/year from the SLCMA Community Nursery
- ◇ Invitations to Natural Resource Management field days and workshops
- ◇ Copy of the SLCMA Annual Report

Monthly rainfall for SLCMA Office, 2006 -2025 (inc. annual total)



Please consider donating your Containers for Change to SLCMA. You can quote SLCMA's Scheme ID#C10002138 when you deposit your eligible containers **or**, you can drop your containers to us. It is a great way to help the environment and the community. You can reduce waste, save energy, and contribute to local environment projects and programs.



SLCMA's Scheme ID  
**C10002138**



**A partnership for the natural resource management of catchments in the Central Queensland Coast Bioregion: Pioneer, Sarina & Whitsunday Catchments.**

### Just for fun!

**Q-** Why do trees seem so suspicious?  
**A-** They always look a little shady.

**Q-** What's a gardener's favourite type of music?  
**A-** Roots rock.

**Q-** Did you hear about the tree that won an award?  
**A-** It was for being outstanding in its field.



Photo: S Tomlinson



**Find us on facebook**

**SLCMA is proudly supported by:**



Community Bank  
 Sarina

**Bendigo Bank**

